



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

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May 29, 2012

The Honorable Board of Director  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

**ADOPTED**

REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

2-P

May 29, 2012

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
SECRETARY

Dear Director:

**ALLOCATE CITIES EXCESS FUNDS  
AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT  
TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES FOR A GRANT  
TO THE LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD LAND TRUST  
FOR THE UNIDAD PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT  
(FIRST DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$43,730 in Cities Excess Funds to the City of Los Angeles, available to the First Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, for a grant to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust for the Unidad Park Community Garden Improvements Project.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Find that the proposed Unidad Park Community Garden Improvements Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the project involves construction and installation of new, small structures, minor alterations to the condition of land at an existing facility, and for the reasons cited herein.
2. Allocate \$43,730 in Cities Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District to the City of Los Angeles for a grant to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust for the Unidad Park Community Garden Improvements Project.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, acting in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant in the amount of \$43,730 to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust for the Unidad Park Community

Garden Improvements Project, after the City of Los Angeles assigns the right to apply for the funds to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, if applicable conditions have been met; and authorize the Director to administer the grants as of the date of this action and pursuant to guidelines in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, the funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$43,730 in Cities Excess Funds to the City of Los Angeles, available to the First Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), for a grant to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT) for the Unidad Park Community Garden Improvements Project.

LANLT was established in 2002 to build parks and community gardens in low-income, park-poor neighborhoods of Los Angeles. LANLT converts vacant lots, abandoned, and nuisance properties into neighborhood parks and community gardens in low-income communities. In the past 6 years, LANLT has successfully completed the following parks: Estrella Park (South LA); Richardson Family Park (South LA); Moothart Collington Community Garden (Koreatown); Beverly Union Park (Historic Filipinotown); Marson Park (Panorama City); 11th Avenue Family Park (South LA); and Marsh Street Skate Park (Elysian Valley).

The proposed Unidad Park Community Garden Improvements Project will improve the infrastructure and functionality of the existing community garden at Unidad Park in the City of Los Angeles. The project includes grading to correct drainage issues and the purchase and installation of hose bibs, native and drought-tolerant landscaping plants, seating, lighting, and an outdoor bulletin board.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$128,023. In addition to the recommended allocation of Cities Excess Funds, LANLT will utilize \$84,293 in private grant funds to complete the project.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions will further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) by enhancing recreational opportunities in the City of Los Angeles in the First Supervisorial District.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Sufficient appropriation for the grant in the amount of \$43,730 is budgeted in the First Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. LANLT has met this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996.

The recommended grant will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District for Cities projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director will be authorized to award the grant only if applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, your Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grant as well.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The proposed Unidad Park Community Garden Improvements Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Sections 15301, 15303 and 15304 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1, 3 and 4 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project involves construction and installation of new, small structures and minor alterations to the condition of land at an existing facility.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by your Board in 2009 only if applicable conditions of the grants have been met. The Grant Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District but are required for the enhancement of safe and accessible recreational opportunities in the City of Los Angeles in the First Supervisorial District.

### **CONCLUSION**

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one conformed copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

5/29/2012

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", with a stylized, flowing script.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:IV

WRO:LB

c: Chief Executive Office  
County Counsel  
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors